COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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No. 14.

ZULULAND.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1890.

(In continuation of Colonial Report, No. 89, Old Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1891.

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No. 14.

ZULULAND.

[In continuation of Colonial Possessions Report No. 89, Old Series.]

Sir C. B. H. MITCHELL to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Pietermaritzburg, Natal,
MY LORD, May 11, 1891.

IN compliance with Colonial Regulations 268–271, I have the honour to place before your Lordship, in duplicate, the annual Blue Book of Zululand for the year 1890, together with a copy of a report thereon by the Acting Resident Commissioner.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) C. B. H. MITCHELL.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT by the ACTING RESIDENT COMMISSIONER.

Until other departments of Government are formed and the existing establishment more thoroughly organised, many of the returns for the Blue Book cannot be furnished with sufficient accuracy for statistical purposes.

Order has prevailed throughout the territory. The natives appear to appreciate the blessings of a settled government and to be contented and prosperous, with the exception that an embittered feeling still exists as a consequence of the disturbances of 1888, between the Usutu and Mandhlakazi tribes, especially in the minds of the former; though the honest endeavours of the Government to administer the laws impartially, between the two parties, and to inquire into all reasonable grounds of complaint have decidedly borne fruit; but I am of opinion that a readjustment of the respective locations of these tribes which have become so much deranged in consequence of the late disturbances is very necessary, and I have submitted proposals to His Excellency the Governor to this end.

Large numbers of the natives have sought and obtained employment on the Natal Government Railways, the Gold Fields of the South African Republic, and elsewhere, and money is accordingly plentiful amongst them. On the other hand cattle are scarce, and fetch high prices.

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ZULULAND.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of 1889 stood thus:—

	£	s.	d.
Balance 1st January 1889 - -	3,882	7	3
Revenue 1889 - - -	38,059	9	7
	41,941	16	10
Expenditure 1889 - - -	33,766	15	8
Balance 31st December 1889 - -	8,175	1	2

The extraordinary expenditure for 1889 amounted to 9,318*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, as shown in the report for that year.

The revenue and expenditure for 1890 is as under:—

	£	s.	d.
Balance 1st January 1890 - -	8,175	1	2
Revenue 1890 - - -	41,691	14	5
	49,866	15	7
Expenditure 1890 - - -	29,733	16	11
Balance on 31st December 1890 -	20,132	18	8

In the amount shown above as expended, there are included the following items of extraordinary expenditure:—

	£	s.	d.
Suppression of Usutu outbreak. (Further expenditure) - - -	59	5	5
Court of Special Commissioners. (Further expenditure) - - -	345	8	6
Legal expenses in connexion with Dinizulu's appeal - - - -	69	13	9
Removal to, and maintenance of, Zulu prisoners at Saint Helena - -	1,566	1	7
	£2,040	9	3

On the other side the revenue includes the extraordinary item of 2,051*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* which represents the proceeds of the sale of the "Fine" cattle paid by the Chief Somkeli.

From the foregoing statement it will be seen that there is a surplus of revenue over expenditure of 20,132*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*

Military Expenditure.

A mixed force of foot and mounted native police of a combined strength of 250 non-commissioned officers and men is kept in the

country. The cost of the maintenance of the Zululand Police, a semi-military force, the establishment of which consists of one Inspector, five Sub-Inspectors, 250 non-commissioned officers and men and 40 horses was, in 1890 10,056*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, which shows a small increase of 101*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* over the expenditure of the previous year.

Public Works.

The sum of 892*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* was expended on the repair of roads, of which 616*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* was spent on what is called the coast-road extending from Lower Tugela to the Imgoni River, thence along the eastern side of the Ungoye Range across the Umhlatuzi River to the Lower Umfolosi River.

The public buildings erected were an office for the Legal Adviser at Eshowe and Court House; offices and lock up at the magistracies in the following districts:—Entönjaneni, N'Kandhla, Nqutu, and Ndwandwe.

Legislation.

Legislation when required, is effected by Proclamation of the Governor. During 1890 seven Proclamations were made, viz.:—

No. I. applies to courts of justice in Zululand, the provisions of section 54 of the Natal Law, No. 22, 1889 entitled, "Law for the "establishment and Regulation of Inferior Courts of Justice, headed "Contempt of Courts."

No. II. appoints the Governor of Zululand to make and sign any requisition and concurrence under the provisions of the "Colonial Prisoners' Removal Act, 1884."

No. III. adopts measures to prevent the capture and destruction of wild animals.

No. IV. proclaims that the court established under the provisions of section 15 of the laws and regulations for the Government of Zululand shall be known as the "High Court of Zululand."

No. V. publishes supplementary estimates for the year 1890.

No. VI. publishes the annual estimates for the year 1891.

No. VII. amends section 74 of the general Orders and Regulations for the Zululand Police regarding compensation for officers' horses.

Establishments.

The establishments are the same as for last year, with the exception that a new Magisterial District has been created, viz., that of the U'Bombo, and an Assistant Commissioner and Resident Magistrate with the usual establishment, been appointed. The total cost of the civil establishment, exclusive of the Zululand Police, was, in 1890, 10,168*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, as against 8,878*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* in the preceding year. A portion of this increase is on account of the establishment of the U'Bombo Magistracy.

ZULULAND.

Officers who have given Security.

Surety bonds are taken from all officers entrusted with the collection or expenditure of public funds.

Pensions.

There are no retired Government officials as pensioners, but stipends are paid to certain Chiefs, subject to their good behaviour. These are, Usibebu, 240*l.*; Umnyamana, 120*l.*; Siwetu, 60*l.*, and Siteku, 60*l.*

Population.

Population.	European.		Native.	
	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.
Male - - -	338	349	63,386	57,393
Female - - -	189	244	75,875	79,595
Total - -	527	593	139,261	136,988

The above is a comparative statement and a mere estimate. With regard to the black population, I do not imagine there is any actual decrease. The apparent decrease may probably be accounted for by the fact that the estimate for 1889 was on an average of $3\frac{1}{3}$ occupants for each hut, whereas that for 1890 was based on more exact data, the occupants of a number of kraals in each district were counted, and the average was found to be $3\frac{1}{5}$ for each hut. The greater proportion of females to males amongst the natives is probably due to the great mortality amongst the latter owing to the late wars and intertribal fights, and also to the absence of large numbers at the fields of labour in Natal and elsewhere.

Ecclesiastical.

There are 17 mission stations established in Zululand, of which six belong to the Church of South Africa, the remainder are of the Lutheran persuasion, of which seven belong to the Norwegian Mission, one to the Mission of the Norwegian Church by the late Bishop Schreuder, one to the Swedish Mission, and two to the Hermannsberg (German) Mission.

Education.

In connexion with the above missions there were 18 schools in operation during 1890, and the number of scholars on the roll was 603. The Church of South Africa has eight schools, the

Norwegian Mission, six, that of the Norwegian Church by the late Bishop Schreuder one, the Swedish Mission one, and the German Hermannsberg Mission two. The Norwegian Mission has attempted to start an industrial school at Eshowe, and has a waggon-building shop, but only two natives were being taught last year. (This shop might form the nucleus of an industrial training establishment if Government gave a liberal grant in support, and enforced the Apprentice Act.) Beyond this there is no attempt at industrial training, except the instruction of girls in sewing and house-work.

The school training is very elementary, and the standard of education in many of the schools very low; the mission Societies are poor and cannot afford to pay good trained teachers.

Provision was made for Government aid in the estimates of 1889 as well as 1890, but the votes have not been applied.

Agriculture.

Until the harvest time, very high prices prevailed for mealies (Indian Corn) which were sold from 3*l.* to 4*l.* per muid of 200lbs., but the crops gave a fair yield, (though in many parts, such as the coast districts, and the low-lying thorn countries, they were below par,) and the prices fell to from 13*s.* to 18*s.* a muid. This year (1891) owing to a good harvest they are being sold for 5*s.* to 6*s.* per muid. In those districts which border Natal the use of the plough is becoming very general; the storekeepers state that they had numerous demands for ploughs last year, and were able to dispose of all their stock, and could have sold many more if they had had them.

I hope the use of the plough may soon become general throughout Zululand. The Resident Magistrates in the NKandhla and Nqutu Districts have been encouraging the natives to plant trees, with very good results, especially in the former district. It is impracticable, owing to the absence of a survey of the territory of Zululand, and the necessary staff, to arrive at any reliable estimate as to the respective areas of cultivated and uncultivated lands, but it may be safely assumed that, owing to the increased use of the plough, larger areas of ground are every year being brought under cultivation.

The rate of wages for natives on the Government roads and other public works is 15*s.* a month with a daily ration of 3lbs. of mealie meal and a weekly ration of 2½lbs. of meat. They obtain from 10*s.* to 30*s.* a month from private individuals.

Skilled European workmen, such as builders, carpenters, &c., earn 15*s.* for a day of eight hours.

Imports and Exports.

No means exist for ascertaining the amounts of imports and exports.

ZULULAND.

Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries.

There are no manufactories or fisheries. The gold mining industry made no progress. A company which established a quartz battery in the NKandhla District has since failed. Many gold prospectors left the country in despair, and in fact the industry may be said to be in a state of great depression. Owing to this depression the revenue derived from the gold fields was 414*l.* less than the preceding year. The royalty paid on gold extracted during the year amounted to the small sum of 9*s.* 1*d.*

Grants of Land.

Two grants of land, comprising about 2,600 acres, were made in terms of Provisio B. of the Agreement of 22nd October 1886 with the late "New Republic."

Gaols and Prisoners.

The only gaol in Zululand is at Eshowe, to which long-sentenced prisoners are sent from other districts. It is under the supervision of the Resident Magistrate. As stated under the head of Public Works, lock-ups have been constructed at four of the Magistracies.

Criminal Statistics.

The total number of offences reported is 1,062, as against 785 in 1889. This increase is probably due to better police supervision, rather than to an increase of crime.

Railways, Canals, Roads, and Telegraphs.

There are no railways or canals in Zululand, and no additions have been made to roads or telegraph during the year.

(Signed) F. CARDEW,
Acting Resident Commissioner.

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No. 56.

ZULULAND.

[For Report for 1890 *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 14.]

Sir C. B. H. MITCHELL to LORD KNUTSFORD.

MY LORD, Durban, Natal, August 19, 1892.

IN compliance with Colonial Regulations 268–271, I have the honour to place before your Lordship, in duplicate, the Blue Book of Zululand for the year 1891, together with a copy of the Resident Commissioner's report thereon, exhibiting the general condition and prospects of the territory under the several heads specified in the Returns.

I regret not having been able to forward this Blue Book within the time prescribed by the regulations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. B. H. MITCHELL.

The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT by the RESIDENT COMMISSIONER to accompany the BLUE BOOK of ZULULAND for 1891.

Taxes, Duties and other sources of Revenue.

There has been no alteration under this head during the year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
The balance to the credit of the territory on the 1st January 1891, was - - -				10,045	13	8
The actual revenue during the year was - - -				40,080	3	7
Other receipts (not actual revenue)						
Advances repaid - -	542	17	0			
Deposits recovered - -	38	13	9			
Remittances received by Crown Agents - - -	22,000	0	0			
Investments realised by Crown Agents - - -	1,500	0	0	24,081	10	9
Carried Forward -				£74,207	8	0

ZULULAND. 1891.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought Forward -				74,207	8	0
The actual expenditure during the year amounted to - -	36,118	9	1			
Other payments (not actual expenditure) Advances -	594	0	0			
Deposits - - -	38	13	9			
Remittances to Crown Agents -	12,000	0	0			
Investments - - -	21,000	0	0	69,751	2	10
Actual cash balance on 31st December 1891 - -				4,456	5	2

The Revenue and Expenditure of 1890 *was as follows* :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance 1st January - -	8,175	1	2			
Revenue during the year -	41,674	6				
Other receipts, not actual revenue - - -	1,464	0	0			
				51,313	7	7
Expenditure during year -	29,732	16	11			
Other payments, not actual Expenditure - - -	11,534	17	0	41,267	13	11
Balance 31st December 1890 -				10,045	13	8

It will thus be seen that there was a decrease of Revenue in 1891 of 1,594*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* as compared with the previous year. The receipts during 1890, however, included the extraordinary item of 2,000*l.*, which represented the proceeds of certain "Fine" cattle paid by the Chief Somkele. The expenditure of 1891 was 6,384*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* in excess of that of 1890, the increase being due chiefly to increased establishments and extraordinary expenditure of 3,797*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*, including payment of 2,519*l.* to certain traders and others as compensation for losses during disturbances, expenses of Boundary Commission, further expenditure connected with the Court of Special Commissioners, &c.

The comparative return of revenue and expenditure during 1890 and 1891 cannot be filled in in detail, in accordance with the form prescribed; the classification of revenue and expenditure of 1891 having been altered from that of 1890. The total revenue of 1891 exceeded the estimate by 352*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* The amount received under the head of Revenue "Duties, Taxes, Licenses" largely exceeded the estimate. Under this head the Hut Tax collected during the year was over 1,700*l.* in excess of the estimate, the amount actually received being 31,366*l.* 6*s.* 0*d.*, and the receipts

under "Fines and forfeitures" were over 1,200*l.* more than the estimate. The excess is mainly attributable, in the first case, to collection of arrear Hut tax in U'Bombo District, and, in the second, to fines in respect of faction fights. Under the heads of Revenue, "Fees of Court," and "Miscellaneous" the estimates were also exceeded, whilst "Post and Telegraph" fees and "Land Revenue" and "Proceeds of Land Sales" were over estimated.

The total expenditure during the year was within the estimate.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities is shown to be 24,662*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* It will be seen that 19,500*l.* has been invested in 1891.

Debt.

There is no public debt.

Military Expenditure.

The expenditure in connection with Her Majesty's troops stationed in Zululand is detailed in the Natal Blue Book, the troops in Natal and Zululand forming one command. The cost of the Zululand native police amounted to 9,830*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* being 1,805*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* less than the estimate, and 226*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.* less than the expenditure on the service during 1890.

Public Works.

The chief public works undertaken during the year were the erection of a new residency at Eshowe, which was commenced and completed; additions to Eshowe Gaol, including hospital; the erection of barracks for the Zululand police; and a court-room and offices for the chief magistrate and staff—the three last-named buildings are still under construction; a new road from Etshanini at Mkuzi Poort up to the seat of magistracy of U'Bombo district was completed, and a new road from Eshowe to Bonds Drift (Lower Tugela), which when finished will be some miles shorter than the present road, was commenced during the year.

Legislation.

The following proclamations were promulgated during the year, viz.:—

No. I. Amending tariff as to customs, duties and charges, annexed to Proclamation No. I., 1888.

No. II. Amending section 58 of Proclamation No. II., 1887, which prohibits the disposal of liquors to natives.

No. III. Regulating the sale and disposal of intoxicating liquors to Indians and certain coloured persons.

No. IV. Proclaiming that certain Natal one penny Natal Revenue stamps over-printed "Zululand" can be used as postage stamps.

No. V. Regulating sale and disposal of intoxicating liquors to Indians and certain coloured persons, and amending law as respects the supplying of spirituous liquors to natives.

No. VI. Proclaiming approved estimates for the year 1892.

No. VII. Proclaiming rules and regulations for sale of erven in the township of Eshowe.

Civil Establishment.

There was but little alteration in the Civil Establishment of Zululand in 1891. His Honour the Resident Commissioner and chief magistrate, M. Osborn, C.M.G., was granted six months', afterwards extended to nine months', leave of absence, dating from December 1890. During that period the duties of the office were discharged by Colonel Cardew.

A clerk of works and Superintendent of Roads Department was established.

A second district surgeon for Zululand was appointed and he is stationed at Melmoth, the centre of the only district in Zululand in which there are white settlers.

Pensions.

There are no Government pensioners, but stipends are paid to certain Native Chiefs during good behaviour. The only alteration in the amounts so paid was the increase in the stipend of Chief Sibebu from 240*l.* to 300*l.* per annum.

Population.

There exist no means of accurately ascertaining the Native population of Zululand; the figures given in the return (which are the same as those furnished for the census return of the British Empire for 1891) are merely approximate. The figures are based on the Hut Tax paid during the year, it being calculated that each hut contains $3\frac{11}{36}$ souls.

The total estimated population as shown is:—

Whites.

Males.	Females.	Total.
384	264	548

Natives

Males.	Females.	Total.
61,646	83,142	144,788

being an estimated increase in the white population of 45 and increase in the native population of 8,393 persons.

There is no register kept of vital statistics in respect of the native population. In the white population there were 22 births and 7 deaths during the year.

Criminal Statistics.

Though the number of offences reported to, and convictions before, the courts of the Resident Magistrates, shows an increase in the corresponding figures for the previous year, it is satisfactory to be able to report that very little crime of a serious nature was committed during the year. Only six cases (including two of murder) were brought up for trial before the High Court of Zululand. The capital sentence in one case of murder was carried out.

Of the cases adjudicated upon by the magistrates, 81 required the confirmation of the Chief Magistrate. These included four cases of "culpable homicide," nine of "theft," seven of "cattle-stealing," 17 of "common assault," and seven "faction fights." Crime was more rife in Nqutu district, and there were more convictions in that than in any of the other districts, the majority of cases arising from stock thefts.

Manufactures, Mines, &c.

Very little progress was made in the gold industry. In the Nqutu, Nkandhla, and Entonjaneni Districts, where batteries have been erected, some gold has been extracted, but very little work has been done in developing, whether from want of capital or confidence in the fields.

The revenue from gold fields amounted to 232*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* only as compared with 787*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.* received during 1890. The royalty of 1*s.* 6*d.* per ounce of gold extracted was 5*l.* 11*s.*

Agriculture.

The estimated area of cultivated and uncultivated land is merely approximate (as are also the other figures given in this return), and cannot be taken as correct, though in all probability there has been an increase in the amount of land brought under cultivation during the year. There is no doubt that in each year the use of the plough is becoming more extended.

Owing to plenteous rains throughout the Territory during the summer 1890–91, the season's crops were remarkably good. The harvest of Indian corn (or mealies) was a good one in all the districts, though in those of Entonjaneni, Eshowe and Ndwandwe early crops suffered from the grub, owing to heavy rains.

The current price of Indian corn during the year ranged from 5*s.* to 10*s.* per muid of 200 lbs.

The rate of wages for native labour in Zululand varied from 7*s.* to 15*s.*, but those who sought work in Natal on the railways and elsewhere, of whom there were great numbers, obtained high wages, ranging from 30*s.* to 40*s.* per month. There was little or no disease amongst horned cattle, and in most districts the year was a good one for stock. In the Nqutu and U'Bombo districts, however, the losses in stock are reported to have been comparatively great. Lung sickness was brought into the country through

transport-riding, but the necessary precautions were taken to prevent the spreading of the disease.

Education.

The native schools are all under mission societies. The number of scholars on the roll was 719, as compared with 603 during the year 1890.

The condition as regards education appears to remain the same as was reported on in the Blue Book of 1890.

Ecclesiastical.

A new mission station in connection with the Church of South Africa was established at Nhlwati in Ndwandwe District, and a settlement was also established in Eshowe District by the representatives of the Salvation Army in 1891. These are the only additions to the number of mission stations in Zululand. The See of Zululand, which became vacant by the death of the late Bishop Mackenzie, was filled during 1891 by the Right Reverend W. M. Carter, now Bishop of Zululand.

Health.

Generally the health of the people was good, though, owing to the specially wet season, there were cases of deaths from the malarial fever which was prevalent in the Ndwandwe, Lower Umfolosi, and U'Bombo Districts.

General concluding remarks.

The people in Zululand enjoyed much prosperity during the year 1891. A plentiful harvest was reaped throughout the country, and horned cattle, which form the special wealth of the Zulus, increased satisfactorily. No abnormal unhealthiness existed. Money was plentiful owing to the high wages earned by young men who obtained employment on railway and other works in Natal, Kimberley, and the gold mines in the South African Republic. Good order prevailed throughout the year.

In September last locations were demarcated for Usutu and other tribes in Ndwandwe District to the North of the Black Umfolosi River, by a commission appointed for the purpose by His Excellency the Governor. The work was satisfactorily performed and is greatly appreciated by the natives concerned. The Resident Magistrate of Ndwandwe district, in a report on the subject of the laying out of these locations, states as follows :—

"After an exhaustive inquiry the Commission gave its decision "respecting the limits of the several locations on the 23rd of "September. Notwithstanding the representations that are "being made by certain European advocates of the Usutu cause "I feel able to state, as a resident amongst the Usutu, and "one who, I trust, enjoys a fair amount of their confidence,

"that the Commission's decisions have met with very general "satisfaction."

The detachment of troops temporarily stationed in Nkandhla district in November 1890, on account of certain alleged intentions of Transvaal Boers to take up farms in that district was withdrawn on the 30th October last year, as it was considered no longer necessary to keep the troops there.

The force of Zululand police, consisting of 250 non-commissioned officers and men (natives) under an European commandant and five sub-inspectors, continued to maintain its character for efficiency and general usefulness. A detachment of the force is stationed at each of the following places:—

Eshowe (head quarters) Nkandhla, U'Bombo, Ulundi, Lower Umfolosi, Ndwandwe, and in Hlabisa districts.

Gold, especially in quartz, has been found in different parts of Zululand, and, it is confidently stated, in payable quantities in Nqutu and Entonjaneni districts. The profitable working of the discoveries is, it is alleged, delayed on account of the want of sufficient capital by the discoverers, and I understand that to overcome this difficulty efforts for the formation of companies are now being made.

The following minerals are found in Zululand:—Gold, silver (included in lead), lead, copper, tin, iron, asbestos, and coal. None of these, excepting gold, has been worked, nor has any attempt been made to turn them to profitable account.

Eshowe, Zululaud,
9th August 1892.

M. OSBORN,
Resident Commissioner.

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147

No. 91.

ZULULAND.

[For Report for 1891 *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 56.]

Acting Governor F. S. HADEN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

MY LORD MARQUESS, Durban, Natal, August 23, 1893.

IN compliance with Colonial Regulations 268–271, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship, in duplicate, the Blue Book of Zululand for the year 1892, together with a copy of a report upon its contents by Sir Melmoth Osborn, late Resident Commissioner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. S. HADEN,
Acting Governor.

The Most Hon.
the Marquess of Ripon, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for the year 1892 by the RESIDENT COMMISSIONER.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The total revenue of the territory for the year 1892 amounted to 42,432*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, being 2,352*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.* in excess of that of the previous year, which was 40,080*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*

There was an increase in 1892, as compared with 1891, under all heads of revenue. The chief increase was under the heads of Duties, Taxes, Licenses, the receipts under which exceeded those of 1892 by 1,405*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*

The expenditure in 1892 was 33,953*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* as compared with 36,118*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* in the previous year, being a decrease of 2,164*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* This excess in 1891 was due chiefly to extraordinary and unforeseen expenditure, in that year, of 3,797*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*, including payments of over 2,500*l.* to traders, as compensation for losses during the disturbances in 1888.

The revenue in 1892 exceeded the estimate by 4,326*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* The most important excess occurred under the head "Taxes, Duties, Licenses, &c.," the amount received thereunder being

3,296*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* in excess of the estimate, of which 2,730*l.* 12*s.* 0*d.* was received under the Sub-head "Hut Tax, the principal source of revenue of the territory.

The expenditure in 1892 was less than estimated by 5,738*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, savings having been effected under each head of expendiure.

Public Debt.

Nil.

Military Expenditure.

The cost of the Zululand Native Police during the year was 10,010*l.* 6*s.* 0*d.*, being less than the estimate by 652*l.* 14*s.* 0*d.* and a small casual increase on the expenditure of 1891 for the service.

Public Works.

Very few, and no important, public works were provided for and undertaken in 1892. The new Court House at Eshowe was completed, and there were additions to the Eshowe gaol and Residency, &c. Offices were erected in the new district of Hlabisa. There was further expenditure in the construction of the new road to the Tugela which was opened for traffic as far as the Matikulu river.

Legislation.

Included in the legislation was a proclamation by his Excellency the Governor defining the new magisterial district of Hlabisa, and amending the boundaries of other adjoining districts, and a proclamation providing for compulsory attendance of witnesses before courts of law of the South African Republic.

Establishment.

The only important addition was the creation of a new magisterial district at Hlabisa, and the appointment of a magistrate and staff therefor.

Pensions or Stipends.

The Chief Mnyamana, who was formerly Prime Minister to the late Zulu King Cetywayo, and who was one of the Chiefs to whom stipends have been paid by the Government, during good behaviour, since the annexation of Zululand, died during the year. The amount paid to the late Chief was 10*l.* per month. Half this amount is paid to Muyamana's successor, Ishauebezwe.

Population.

The white population is estimated at about 700. The figures for the return of the native population can only be furnished approximately. Taking, as the basis of calculation, the amount of Hut Tax paid for the year, and estimating that there are $3\frac{1}{3}$ souls to each hut, the native population is approximately as follows, viz.:—

Males.	Females.	Total.
69,489	84,932	154,421

These figures show a considerable estimated increase in the population as compared with the previous year, which is partly accounted for by the influx or return into Zululand of Zulus from surrounding territories. Such natives are not now permitted to take up residence in the territory unless under special circumstances.

Criminal Statistics.

There is an increase in the number of offences reported to, and in the number of convictions before, the Courts in 1892 as compared with 1891, which increase may be accounted for by increased magistracies, and, consequently, more complete supervision.

There was, on the whole, little increase in the number of serious crimes committed in 1892. Four cases of murder were dealt with in the High Court of Zululand, in two of which sentence of death was passed and carried out. There were 113 convictions (embracing 230 persons) before the courts of resident magistrates, which required the confirmation of the chief magistrate. Of these cases the most serious were 1 of culpable homicide, 11 of cattle stealing, 4 faction fights, 25 thefts, and 31 of assault.

Mines.

Some gold-mining operations have been carried on during the year, and the gold out-put amounted to 786 ounces; but little activity or interest was shown in the industry, and two or three small batteries which had been erected in Entonjaneni and some other districts were shut down, while about a similar number are in course of construction in Nkandhla District and elsewhere. It is believed, however, that gold and coal exist in Zululand in payable quantities, and that the fields will shortly be developed.

The discovery of extensive seams of coal of good quality in one of the coast districts has been officially reported by the discoverers, who have applied for mining or mineral leases.

Agriculture, &c.

The year was a good one for all kinds of stock, which was generally free from disease, and there was a large natural increase in the cattle, &c. of the natives. A mild form of foot-and-mouth disease made its appearance, but no losses resulted therefrom.

Early and continuous rains at the end of 1891 promised exceptionally good crops, but owing to the small rainfall during February and March, 1892, the crops of the natives, especially maize, suffered seriously, and it was thought by some that there would be a great scarcity of food amongst the people. That this was avoided was due to the harvest of the previous season having been an exceedingly good one, and, as money was plentiful amongst the natives, those whose stock of grain proved insufficient were able to purchase food.

Health.

The health of the people was good, except in the low-lying parts of the Lower Umfolosi, and U'Bombo Districts, where many deaths occur every year from the malarial fever which prevails in those localities in the wet season (summer). Small-pox was brought in, in the month of September, from the South African Republic, Ndwandwe and U'Bombo being the infected districts. By strict isolation of the two or three kraals at which it had broken out, the disease was prevented from spreading, and it totally disappeared towards the close of the year, though the quarantine regulations were enforced, and the removal of natives from one district to another, and from the country, was prevented for a considerably longer period. A large percentage of the population was vaccinated through the medium of the resident magistrates and the Chiefs.

Concluding remarks.

As will have been seen from the monthly reports of the Resident Commissioner, the general condition of things was highly satisfactory during 1892. There was little crime, and very few faction fights took place. No difficulty was experienced in the collection of the Hut-tax, which was punctually and readily paid by the natives. Nothing occurred to disturb the tranquillity, good order, and contentment which continued to prevail, the natives showing a ready disposition to abide by the laws and the orders of the Government throughout the territory.

Eshowe, Zululand,
29th July 1893.

(Signed) M. OSBORN,
Resident Commissioner.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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No. 115.

ZULULAND.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1893.

(For Report for 1892, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 91.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty
August 1894.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
79	Malta	1892
80	Gambia	"
81	Strait Settlements	"
82	Grenada	"
83	Barbados	"
84	St. Vincent	"
85	Hong Kong	"
86	St. Lucia	"
87	Falkland Islands	"
88	Gold Coast	"
89	Basutoland	1892–93
90	Ceylon	1892
91	Zululand	"
92	Mauritius	"
93	Labuan	"
94	British Honduras	"
95	Lagos	"
96	Sierra Leone	"
97	Fiji	"
98	Rodrigues	"
99	St. Helena	"
100	British Bechuanaland	1892–93
101	British Guiana	"
102	Newfoundland	1892
103	Jamaica	1892–93
104	Victoria	1892
105	Bermuda	1893
106	Gambia	"
107	Hong Kong	"
108	St. Vincent	"
109	Gibraltar	"
110	Bahamas	"
111	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
112	Leeward Islands	"
113	Barbados	"
114	Malta	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.

No. 115.

ZULULAND.

[For Report for 1892 *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 91.]

Sir W. F. HELY-HUTCHINSON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Government House, Pietermaritzburg,
MY LORD, Natal, July 6, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, in compliance with Colonial Regulations 268–271, the annual Blue Book for he year 1893, in duplicate, together with a copy of the report hereon by the Resident Commissioner.

The Population Return appears to me to be open to criticism. I am in communication with the Resident Commissioner on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER HELY-HUTCHINSON,
Governor.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for the year 1893, by the RESIDENT COMMISSIONER.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The total revenue of the Territory for the year 1893 amounted to 43,666*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*, being 1,234*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.* in excess of that for the previous year, which was 42,432*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* This excess is chiefly due to an increase in the Hut Tax, owing to the natural growth of population. The Revenue exceeded the estimate by 2,314*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*, notably under the heads "Duties, Taxes, Licenses," "Fees of Court or Office," and "Post and Telegraph."

The expenditure amounted to 38,854*l.* 16*s* 10*d.*, as compared with 33,950*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* in 1892. The increase of 4,901*l.* 4*s.* 0*d.*, which is thus shown, is accounted for by :—

(1.) The re-establishment of the Ubombo Magistracy.
(2.) The increase of salaries
(3.) The improvement of roads.
(4.) The purchase of arms which were obtained from the Natal Government in 1884.

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(5.) The purchase of furniture for the Residency at Eshowe.

(6.) The survey of the boundary between Zululand and the South African Republic. The expenditure on this work amounted during the year to 1,164*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* According to an agreement with the Government of the South African Republic, half the cost of this survey will be repaid to the Zululand Government, on its completion in 1894.

The expenditure during the year was 2,478*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.* less than the estimate.

Assets and Liabilities.

The total assets on the 31st December 1893 exceeded the liabilities of the Territory on that date by 37,668*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*

A sum of 19,500*l.* is invested by the Crown Agents in Colonial and other securities. The interest on these surplus funds amounted to 627*l.* 4*s.* 0*d.*

Public Debt.

There is no public debt.

Military Expenditure.

A sum of 9,618*l.* 16*s.* 0*d.*, being 1,262*l.* 4*s.* 0*d.* under the estimate, was expended on the maintenance of the Zululand Native Police, as compared with 10,010*l.* 6*s.* 0*d.* during the previous year. This force is composed of:—

A Commandant,
5 Sub-Inspectors, } Europeans.

250 native non-commissioned officers and men.

456*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.* was spent on the erection of barracks at Eshowe, the headquarters of the Zululand Police.

The cost of the Imperial troops quartered at Eshowe will appear in the Blue Book of Natal, with which Colony Zululand forms one military command. The strength of the garrison during the year was:—150 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men.

Public Works.

A. Roads.—Repairs to the main roads of the territory were effected at a cost of 2,080*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*, being 80*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.* in excess of the original estimates, which would not have been exceeded but for the exceptionally heavy rainfall, which caused considerable damage to the roads all over Zululand. Further progress was made on the new road from Eshowe to Tugela, upon which 408*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* was expended, bringing the total expenditure on this work up to 2,102*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*, on the 31st December 1893.

B. Buildings.—The construction of the Police Barracks at Eshowe was proceeded with, but this work has not yet been completed, the amount of 500*l.* provided on the estimates having been found to be inadequate.

Further additions were made to the Gaol, Gaoler's quarters, Court House, and Residency at Eshowe.

Government Magazines were built at Melmoth and Eshowe, at a cost of 120*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*, and 140*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* each. Ammunition can be purchased by the public at each of these magazines. A Court-room and Lock-up was erected at Umbombo for 291*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*

The expenditure on maintenance of buildings amounted to 397*l.* 18*s.* 0*d.*—2*l.* 2*s.* 0*d.* within the estimate.

Legislation.

A Proclamation providing for the compulsory attendance of witnesses resident in Zululand before the law courts of the South African Republic is the only legislative enactment of noticeable importance which was promulgated during the year.

Civil Establishment.

Sir Marshal Clarke was appointed as Resident Commissioner and Chief Magistrate on the retirement of Sir Melmoth Osborn on the 31st July. Sir Charles Mitchell relinquished office on the 13th July, and Mr. Haden administered the Government from that date to the 28th of September, when the Honourable Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson assumed the office of Governor.

The Magistracy at Ubombo was re-established in October, and a magistrate appointed with the necessary staff.

A local Auditor was appointed on the 1st of July and assumed duty on the 29th of that month.

Pensions and Stipends.

Sir Melmoth Osborn retired from the Office of Resident Commissioner and Chief Magistrate on the 31st July, on a pension at the rate of 778*l.* per annum, of which 744*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* is contributed from Zululand, and 33*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* from Imperial funds. The sum actually expended on pensions during the year was 248*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*

The amount paid as stipends to Chiefs remained the same in 1893 as it was in 1892, viz.:—500*l.*

Population.

The White population amounted to 857 as compared with 700 in the previous year.

The native population, which is calculated on the number of huts upon which tax was paid during the year—each hut being estimated to contain $3\frac{1}{3}$ souls—amounted approximately to

163,447. Compared with 1892, the native population for 1893 stands as follows :—

Males.	Females.	Total.	Year.
70,053	93,394	163,447	1893
69,489	84,932	154,421	1892
Increase 564	8,462	9,026	1893

The calculation of the population upon the amount of Hut Tax collected is essentially misleading. The total population of the territory is estimated at 13·144 to the square mile. Generally speaking, the country is thinly populated, and in the low lying districts along the sea coast, north of the Umhlatusi river, there are extensive tracts of land rendered uninhabitable by malarial fever.

Education.

The total number of native schools at work during the year was 33, the expenditure on which amounted roughly to 1,131*l*. There were 665 scholars in average attendance at these schools, which are entirely supported and carried on by Missionary societies, of which there are five.

An annual Government contribution is about to be made in aid of native education, and a scheme for the distribution of the grant is under consideration.

Agriculture.

A good harvest was obtained in all parts of the Territory, the season having been an exceptionally good one. The total yield of crops was above the average. The natural pasturage of Zululand is excellent for cattle, and, in many localities, for sheep and horses.

The natives suffered considerable losses of stock from a disease known as "Nakana," which generally made its appearance in the districts unhealthy for man. An exhaustive inquiry was instituted as to the cause of this peculiar disease. It is to be gathered from the result of the investigation made that "Nakana" prevails only in the localities occupied by the large species of game, and is associated with the presence of game by the natives.

Measures have consequently been taken with the object of confining the larger species of game to the most unhealthy and uninhabited parts of the country, where they will not come into contact with cattle and other stock.

The mortality amongst cattle from lung-sickness was heavy in the Intonjaneni District, whilst the other districts were compara-

tively free from this disease. Owing probably to the heavy rainfall, horse sickness was unusually severe, especially in the Inkandhla district.

The Natives continue to cultivate only to the extent of their own requirements, the crops grown at each kraal being no more than is sufficient for the food of its inmates. In the Inkandhla, Eshowe, and Nqutu Districts, however, ploughs are now being bought, and in the latter district, which is chiefly inhabited by Basutus, grain is being extensively cultivated for sale, the plough being used at almost every kraal.

Manufactures and Mines.

(*a.*) *Nqutu District.*—The interest in the Nondweni gold fields revived considerably during the year. A large tract of land, in extent 12 by 3 miles, was marked off in areas which are being developed by syndicates or individual prospectors.

A 10-stamp battery was opened in November on the property of the Enterprise Syndicate, and the result of 19 days crushing for the month of December, from 116 tons of quartz, was 134 oz. 10 dwts. of gold, equal to an average of 1 oz. 3 dwts. 4¼ grains to the ton, which compares favourably with the crushing of the principal properties in Johannesburg. The reef on the "Enterprise" is 6 feet wide, and is pronounced to be permanent, being well defined and cased in solid formation. It has as yet given no signs of "pinching out." A shaft of 90 feet has been sunk on the reef, and a drive of 76 feet along the reef. To work the property, further development is required, which seems to be beyond the power of the present owners, through want of capital. It is generally considered that the property will not pay until a company with a capital of fifty or sixty thousand pounds has been floated on it. Areas have been pegged off on what is called the "Enterprise Extension," for about eight miles, in the hope of catching the "Enterprise" reef. It is difficult to say whether the prospectors are working in the right direction; there is a difference of opinion on this point. Should any of the prospectors catch the reef, it is believed that the success of the fields will be ensured. Two large reefs on the "Sisters" and "Bulls' Luck" properties, said to be payable, have been struck. Twelve syndicates, composed of people from Natal, the Free State, Zululand, and the South African Republic, have their representatives and prospectors on the fields, and are either the owners or have taken over properties on agreement with the original prospectors for development. Two hundred and seventy prospecting licenses and renewal of licenses were issued, and 157 areas were registered during the year.

(*b.*) *Lower Umfolosi District.*—From indications to be found for a considerable distance along the sea shore in the Umbonambi location, it would appear that coal exists in large quantities from the Mpungunyoni almost to the mouth of the Umhlatusi River.

The formation is the same throughout, and the outcrops at the foot of the hills along the sea shore are identified with those found at the Mpungunyoni, where excellent coal has been found.

(*c.*) *Hlabisa District.*—Extensive seams of coal were discovered near St. Lucia Bay in this district towards the end of 1892. A Syndicate has applied for a mining lease of 4,000 acres of land, which has been surveyed, with the intention of working these seams. Samples of the coal have been treated with satisfactory results. The question of granting a concession for the construction of a line of railway from Tugela on the Natal border to the St. Lucia coal fields is under the consideration of Government.

Grants of Land.

A number of erven, or one-acre lots, were sold in the township of Eshowe. After the repayment to general revenue of the initial expenditure on the formation of this township, the proceeds of the sales will be invested for the benefit and improvement of the town.

Criminal Statistics.

As compared with 1892, a considerable increase is shown in the number of offences committed and the total convictions during 1893, of which common offences form a very large proportion. This increase is due, in a great measure, to excessive beer-drinking in the Nqutu District, where drunkenness is becoming a serious evil among the Basutus.

The increase of crime in other districts has not been abnormal.

The number of cases which came before the Chief Magistrate for confirmation from the Magistrates' courts was 101, as compared with 113 in the previous year. The principal of these cases were :—

Cattle stealing - - - - -	20
Common offences - - - -	19
Assaults - - - - - -	18
Thefts - - - - - -	15
Culpable homicide - - - - -	8
Adultery - - - - - -	7

The number of convictions for murder before the High Court was exceptionally large, being equal to the aggregate for the three previous years. Sentence of death was passed on 12 prisoners convicted of this crime. Five of these sentences were commuted by the Governor to imprisonment for life, and seven were duly carried out.

Meteorological Observations.

Eshowe and Inkandhla are the only stations at which meteorological observations were taken. Each of the Magistrates is now

being provided with the necessary instructions and instruments for the purpose of keeping a complete record of the climatic conditions of the Territory.

The total rainfall at Eshowe is shown to have been 77·66, and at Inkandhla 44·42 inches. Copious rains fell all over Zululand towards the close of the year, and the rainfall was considerably over the average.

Concluding Remarks.

The year cannot be said to have been a healthy one. The natives suffered from fever in every district during the summer months. Many cases resulted fatally. It broke out with exceptional severity in the Ndwandwe District, where no less than 300 deaths were reported in the months of March and April, and in the Nqutu District, where 52 deaths occurred in the early part of the year. Influenza prevailed principally in the Nkandhla District, where a number of cases terminated fatally. There were also three outbreaks of small-pox in the same district, from which five deaths are recorded. The Nqutu District was visited by the same epidemic at the end of the year—six deaths being reported from it. In each case it was found that the small-pox was introduced by native labourers who had returned to their homes from the Johannesburg mines in the South African Republic, where the disease has existed for some time. Extensive vaccination was carried on in the districts afflicted The native Chiefs readily supported the Government in enforcing the quarantine regulations, and the occupants of infected kraals cheerfully submitted to the restrictions placed upon them.

Good order prevailed throughout Zululand during the year, and the Chiefs and people continued to show a ready obedience to the Government.

Eshowe, Zululand,
May 29, 1894.

(Signed) MARSHAL CLARKE,
Resident Commissioner.

 353

No. 137.

ZULULAND.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894.

(For Report for 1893, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 115.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
May 1895.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
104	Victoria	1892
105	Bermuda	1893
106	Gambia	"
107	Hong Kong	"
108	St. Vincent	"
109	Gibraltar	"
110	Bahamas	"
111	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
112	Leeward Islands	"
113	Barbados	"
114	Malta	"
115	Zululand	"
116	British Honduras	"
117	Trinidad and Tobago	"
118	Falkland Islands	"
119	Rodrigues	"
120	Mauritius	"
121	Straits Settlements	"
122	Labuan	"
123	Basutoland	"
124	St. Lucia	1893–94
125	St. Helena	1893
126	Ceylon	"
127	Fiji	"
128	Grenada	"
129	Sierra Leone	"
130	British Bechuanaland	"
131	British New Guinea	1893–94
132	Lagos	1892–3 & 1893–4
133	British Guiana	1893
134	Jamaica	1893–94
135	Newfoundland	"
136	Gold Coast	1893

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.

No. 137.

ZULULAND.

[For Report for 1893 *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 115.]

Sir W. F. HELY-HUTCHINSON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Government House, Pietermaritzburg,
Natal, April 2, 1895.

MY LORD,

I FORWARD the Blue Book for Zululand for 1894, with a report thereon by the Resident Commissioner, Sir Marshal Clarke.

2. Referring to the section on population, Sir Marshal Clarke informs me that of the 12,500 square miles which Zululand is estimated to contain, 3,200 square miles, a little more than 25 per cent., is uninhabited. The probability is that a large part of the uninhabited area is uninhabitable on account of fever and the cattle and horse disease known as "Nagana." The Native population, estimated at 165,121, averages about 17·75 to the square mile of inhabited country.

3. With regard to the locusts, I learn that they appear to have done considerable damage this year in the neighbourhood of Melmoth, but that the gardens between Eshowe and the Tugela are, so far, doing well. The Natal Ministry are considering what steps should be taken with a view of minimising the ravages of the locusts: and it is my intention to work in accord with them, in Zululand, if possible.

4. In forwarding this report, I desire to bear my testimony to the ability, tact, and judgment with which Sir Marshal Clarke performs the duties of Resident Commissioner in Zululand: and to his thorough knowledge and sympathetic understanding of the native character, which so eminently qualify him for the responsible position he holds.

I have, &c.

WALTER HELY-HUTCHINSON,
Governor.

RESIDENT COMMISSIONER to GOVERNOR.

Eshowe, Zululand, March 25, 1895.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith the annual Blue Book relating to Zululand, for the year 1894, filled up as far as it

I 87000. Wt. 20348.

has been possible to do so, together with my report thereon, as required by the Colonial Regulation, No. 271.

I have, &c.

M. CLARKE,
Resident Commissioner.

His Excellency
the Hon. Sir W. F. Hely-Hutchinson, K.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT by the RESIDENT COMMISSIONER on the BLUE BOOK for the year 1894.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The Revenue in 1894, amounted to 45,592*l.* as compared with 43,666*l.* in the previous year, increases being shown in the returns as follows :—

	£
Hut-tax - - - -	518
Post and Telegraph - - - -	839
Land Revenue - - - -	571

The chief source of Revenue is Hut-tax, which continues to be paid with punctuality: each year large numbers of Natives leave Zululand seeking work in neighbouring States to acquire the means of paying their taxes.

The increase in Post and Telegraph is principally due to the sale of stamps. 1,380*l.* was collected under this head: of this, 530*l.* approximately was received from stamp collectors.

The increase in Land Revenue is due to the large number of prospectors' licenses issued during the year.

The Expenditure was 43,923*l.*, being 5,069*l.* in excess of that in 1893, and 1,669*l.*, short of the revenue received during the year. The items under which the principal increases will be seen are :—

	£
Resident Commissioner's Establishment -	903
Education - - - -	481
Pensions - - - -	744
Public Works - - - -	4,254

The several returns which have been furnished from the Treasury show the sound condition of the finances of the Territory.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The total assets on the 31st December, 1894, exceeded the liabilities of the Territory on that date by 39,037*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*

A sum of 19,500*l.* remained invested by the Crown Agents in Colonial and other securities, and the interest on these investments amounted to 624*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*

Additional surplus funds, being available, were temporarily deposited in the local bank, and yielded 100*l.* in interest during the year.

Public Works.

Deviations in the main roads between Tugela and Eshowe and Melmoth have been made during the past year. In the latter section a saving of distance of 17 miles has thus been effected.

Ferry-boats have been placed on the Matikulu, the Umhlatuzi, and the White Umfolozi rivers at the main crossings. These were much called for, as, during the wet season such as occurred last year, rivers were impassable for days at a time, and both traffic and mail service interrupted.

Legislation.

Twelve proclamations were issued during the year, the most important of which were:—

(*a.*) For the regulation and management of gaols.
(*b.*) For the extension of jurisdiction of native chiefs in civil and criminal matters.
(*c.*) For the regulation of mining.
(*d.*) For the establishment of a money-order convention with the Colony of Natal.
(*e.*) For the preservation of timber and forests.

Population and Vital Statistics.

The European population in 1894 was 994, as compared with 857 in the previous year. The only means of arriving at an estimate of the Native population is by a calculation on the amount of hut-tax collected, a method which must be misleading. As a basis for the purpose of this calculation, the magistrates were instructed to reckon at the uniform rate of $3\frac{1}{3}\frac{1}{6}$ souls, or $1\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{7}$ males and $1\frac{9}{1}\frac{7}{0}\frac{}{8}$ females per hut. The last census was calculated on the basis of these figures, after a systematic enquiry as to the average number of occupants and the proportion of males and females in each hut.

The total population of the territory is estimated at 13·30 to the square mile, but, owing to the prevalence of malarial fever, a large section of Zululand is uninhabited. A number of kraal sites were abandoned in consequence of the exceptional severity of fever in 1893, and of the heavy losses in cattle sustained at the same time from Nagana and other diseases.

Small-pox.

Several outbreaks of small-pox occurred in the Eshowe, Nkandhla, and Nqutu districts.

The total number of natives who suffered from this epidemic was about 1,149. There were 41 deaths reported, and over 30,000 persons were vaccinated, at a total cost to the Government of 599*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* Some of the missionaries vaccinated numbers of Zulus free of charge, and otherwise rendered valuable assistance towards checking the spread of the disease. All the kraals in which small-pox made its appearance were isolated, and the quarantine arrangements were successfully carried out from time to time by native guards in co-operation with the tribal Chiefs.

The disease was completely stamped out towards the end of the year.

So long as small-pox exists in Johannesburg in the South African Republic, outbreaks may be expected to occur in Zululand, which is one of the chief sources of its native labour supply.

EDUCATION.

The total expenditure on Education in 1894 amounted to 481*l.* 16*s.* 0*d.* At the commencement of the year the education offered to Europeans and natives was under the direction of the different churches and mission societies established in the country, and it seemed advisable, both for general reasons and considering the amount of money at the disposal of Government, to aid the work already in progress rather than to initiate a new system. Accordingly, the heads of the various missions were consulted, and a grant was made for each society that carried on educational work amongst the Zulus, in proportion to the number of pupils attending specified schools which appear to be conducted in such a manner as to justify Government in granting assistance. The proportion allotted to each school was then submitted by the heads of the missions for approval. In this way grants were made as follows:—

	£
English Church of South Africa, 18 schools -	220
Norwegian Missionary Society, four schools -	50
Church of Norway Mission (Established by Schreuder) Society, one school - -	18
Swedish Missionary Society, one school - -	8

There was but one school in Zululand available solely for European children during the year, *i.e.*, at Eshowe, under the direction of the Bishop of the Church of South Africa. This school is self-supporting, so far as the teaching is concerned, but

the accommodation is inadequate. A portion of the Education vote viz., 80*l.* 16*s.* 0*d.*, was spent in beginning a school-room, which will be completed shortly, at a cost of 300*l.* It is intended to lend this building, free of charge, to the Church, for the exclusive use of the school, on the condition that the school is subject to Government inspection, that the result of such inspection is satisfactory, and that such rules and regulations as may from time to time be issued by the Government in connection with Government-aided schools are complied with. It was intended to establish a school for European children at Melmoth, the centre of a large farming district, but there is a great difficulty in obtaining the services of duly qualified teachers for country schools in South Africa. Steps are being taken to get a teacher from England. There is also a small school at the Nondweni mining centre for which Government aid is now being asked. There are only two industrial schools in Zululand, both at Eshowe—one under the Norwegian Mission, where smith's work, carpentering, and waggon-making are taught, the other, a printing and book-binding establishment belonging to the Church of South Africa. Both of these schools are working satisfactorily and have received an aggregate grant from Government of 100*l.*

Agriculture.

The Zulus, a pastoral rather than an agricultural people, have been accustomed to cultivate little more than what has been necessary to meet their immediate wants, but of late heavy losses in cattle, and a growing appreciation of the value of money, have induced many of them to purchase ploughs or to hire others to plough for them. This has increased the area under cultivation.

Last year the grain crop in the Eshowe, Lower Umfolozi, Nkandla, and Nqutu districts was a comparative failure, and quantities of mealies were imported from Natal, the South African Republic, and Basutoland, the Zulus paying as much as 1*l.* or 1*l.* 10*s.* a bag.

The soil is generally suitable for cultivation, but beyond the coast-belt it is not exceptionally rich; the Zulus have often to break up fresh ground for their gardens, and the farmers in Proviso B. have to manure their lands before they can hope for satisfactory crops.

Locusts.

Large swarms of locusts passed over the whole, and settled in many parts, of Zululand during the months of November and December, doing much damage to standing crops. These pests are not known to have appeared in the country for nearly 30 years. It is reported that large swarms of young locusts are

growing up along the coast, and the magistrates have been instructed to encourage and to assist the natives by all the means in their power to destroy them.

Stock.

Heavy losses from horse-sickness were experienced during the year in the upper districts of the territory, where, up to this time, the disease was little known; this is attributed to the exceptionally heavy rainfall; at the same time, the low country, always unhealthy for horses, did not seem exceptionally affected.

The deaths reported of horned cattle, ascribed to the disease called Nagana, were not as numerous as the year before.

By favour of the military authorities, the services of Surgeon-Captain Bruce, A.M.D., an eminent bacteriologist, were obtained to investigate this disease and ascertain its affinity to the result ascribed to the bite of the Tsetse-fly. He was engaged on these investigations at the close of the year.

Garden Boundaries.

After the Zulu war the Chief Hlubi, a Basuto with a following, was settled in the Nqutu District.

The Zulus and Basutos are not good neighbours; the former cultivate fields about their kraals and feed their cattle beyond, the Basuto cultivate at a distance from their villages and herd their milch-cattle and plough oxen close by. Disputes as to trespass and damages to crops naturally arise from this diversity of system.

As Hlubi persisted in an unfounded claim to be paramount chief of the entire district, disputes and quarrels often occurred which threatened to lead to serious disturbances.

It was accordingly considered necessary to assign garden boundaries to the various chiefs.

This, so far, seems to work satisfactorily.

MINES.

Gold, the mineral which attracted most attention on the part of prospectors and capitalists in Zululand, occurs under three conditions:—

(1.) In quartz-veins and reefs, encased for the most part in highly tilted metamorphic schists striking always more or less east and west.

(2.) In banket-beds inter-stratified with sandstones and quartzites.

(3.) As an alluvial deposit.

The principal gold-fields are:—

Name.	Situation.	Formation.
1. Nondweni - -	Nqutu District - -	Quartz, reef and Banket.
2. Ulundi - - -	Entonjaneni District -	Banket.
3. Melmoth - - -	Entonjaneni District -	Quartz, reef and alluvial.
4. Upper Insuzi -	Nkandhla District - -	Banket.
5. Umhlatuzi -		Banket.
6. Vungwini - -		Quartz veins and alluvial.
7. Nkunzana - -		Quartz veins and alluvial.

1.

The Nondweni Gold-Fields are situated in the North-western portion of Zululand, know as the Nqutu district, on Crown Lands.

The maximum length of the fields is about nine miles, and the breadth about five miles.

At the close of the year there were 113 prospecting areas registered, representing approximately 12 square miles.

Besides a considerable extent of auriferous banket-beds, 30 gold-bearing quartz-reefs and leaders, running more or less parallel to one another, have been proved on these fields. The gold contained is free near the surface and maintains that characteristic in the deepest shaft yet sunk, 200 feet.

There is a deposit of graphite on the western side of the fields, but no work has yet been done to prove its extent or commercial value. Much desultory prospecting work has been carried on for some years, the total depth of shafts sunk amounting to about 5,500 feet, and the length of drives and cross-cuts to about 2,000 feet.

There are 21 syndicates and one limited company holding properties on these fields; the remainder of the occupied ground being held by individual prospectors and private capitalists.

Amongst the principal properties are:—

(a.)—*The Enterprise Mine.*

Three mining leases and a water-right have been granted to the Enterprise Gold Mining and Prospecting Syndicate, and a mill-site lease has been applied for. The average of free gold won over the plates was 7 dwts. 20·8 grains per ton of quartz crushed; the value of the retorted gold being 3*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* per ounce.

The gross expenditure on the property up to the 31st December, 1894 is returned at 8,917*l.*

(b.)—*Von Levetzou's Luck.* (*De Waal's Syndicate.*)

A quartz-reef runs through this property where a shaft has been sunk to a depth of about 50 feet, in which several pockets of exceptionally rich quartz have been found.

(c.)—*Sisters Gold Mining Company.*

On this property, which was originally pegged out in 72 claims, two principal gold-bearing deposits have been discovered and followed, one consisting of a species of stockwerke containing innumerable thin quartz veins, many of which carry visible gold, and the other of a small leader, very rich in free gold, in decomposed ground, down to a depth of about 120 feet.

Native labour is cheap and as a rule plentiful. The rate of wages ranges from 10*s.* to 30*s.* per month, exclusive of food, the average being about 25*s.* a month. European miners earn from 8*l.* to 16*l.* a month, out of which their board would cost them about 4*l.*

The climate of Nondweni, and all other gold-fields of Zululand, is exceptionally healthy. The various spruits and rivers will afford an ample supply of water for many large batteries. Coal is found in the neighbourhood of Nondweni, and suitable woods can be obtained from the forests 40 miles distant.

The White population numbers about 160 persons.

There are 131 prospecting license-holders, many of whom are not resident at Nondweni.

A passenger cart runs between Dundee, Natal, and Denny-Dalton, calling at Nondweni once a week.

The greater part of the work done has been confined to a form of surface-scratching which is inadequate for the proper proving and development of the reefs, the commercial value of which can only be ascertained and turned to account by serious development workings. In the two principal instances where development has been attempted, namely at the "Enterprise" and "Sisters," the results obtained have been of such an encouraging nature as to offer inducement to the introduction of capital on a larger scale.

These two properties have so far turned out over 3000*l.* worth of gold over the plates, without considering the value of the tailings.

II.—*Ulundi Fields.*

These fields are on the left bank of the White Umfolozi River a few miles north of the Ulundi battle-field.

The Denny Dalton Mine, which is attracting a good deal of attention, is situated on a farm on the opposite bank of this river in the South African Republic. The number of areas pegged on the Ulundi fields standing on the register on the 31st December was 70, representing about 8¼ square miles, but very little prospecting work, beyond the merest surface scratching, has as yet been done.

III.—*Melmoth Fields.*

Hareward Gold Mining Company.—The property of this company, in extent 606 acres, is situated about 7 miles from Melmoth. A good deal of irregular mining has been done since the property was taken over by the Hareward Syndicate in 1889. During the year October 1893 to October 1894, 495 feet of sinking, 302 feet of driving, and 9,150 square feet of stoping were executed. 352 tons of quartz were milled yielding 314 ozs, 12 dwts. of gold or an average of 17 dwts. 21 grs. of free gold per ton exclusive of tailings. The expenditure for the same period amounted to 988*l.* The total expenditure from 1889 to December 1894, is returned at 12,167*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*

The property includes a creek where alluvial gold exists over a distance of some 2 miles.

IV.—*Upper Insuzi Valley.*

These fields which were only discovered in August, extend over an area of about 9 square miles.

The nature of the deposit consists of layers of micaceous sandstones, auriferous banket, fine conglomerates, grits, and indurated sandstone, occurring in a succession of separate series, each series being evidently of considerable thickness. Fifty-two prospecting areas, representing about 5¼ square miles, have been pegged off, 21 Europeans and about 80 natives being employed in prospecting. The result of the work done would go to prove the existence of a great number of parallel layers of auriferous banket, varying in thickness from 4 inches to 4 feet.

V.—*Umhlatuzi.*

On the upper reaches of this river, near the boundary line of the South African Republic, the same banket formation as that described as existing in the Upper Insuzi Valley is found. Three prospecting areas have been pegged off at these fields on private lands, and nine on crown lands.

Coals.

The coal-measures in Zululand are mostly found in mountain ranges. Up to the present, the only seams which have been in any way opened up are :—

(1.)—*In the Nqutu Range, Nqutu District.*

A seam, varying in thickness from 2 to 3 feet at its outcrop, has been found to extend over a considerable area. It is probable that a good anthracite steam-coal will be found when further drives have been made into the hillside containing this seam.

(2.)—*Qudeni Range, Nhandhla District.*

In one place here a coal seam, averaging a little over 1 foot in thickness, comes to the surface near the top of the range. Some

distance south of this point, what would apparently be the same seam again outcrops on the slopes of the Qudeni range, which are covered by a vast forest. The coal formation here constitutes the whole upper portion of this range of mountains, covering a considerable extent of country. This is a good anthracite steam coal.

(3.)—*St. Lucia Coal Fields, Hlabisa District.*

Large deposits of anthracite coal are said to exist near St. Lucia Bay, 60 miles north-east of Eshowe, and 160 miles from the port of Durban, Natal.

Four bore-holes and two shafts have been sunk on the deposit.

No. 1 bore (near the outcrop) passed through 20 feet of sandstone and then through 24 feet of coal.

No. 11 bore (on the dip) after passing through 124 feet of sandstone and shale encountered the coal seam which it traversed for 50 feet, a thin deposit of fire-clay lying immediately above the seam.

A lease of 4,000 acres was applied for on 8th April 1893, but has not yet been granted by the Government.

HOSPITALS.

Dispensaries have been established at Eshowe and at Ndwandwe, where the district surgeon gives advice free to Natives. A fee of 1*s.* is charged to cover the cost of medicines prescribed. These have been open since 13th February 1894, at Eshowe, and since 1st April 1894, at Ndwandwe. The number of attendances has been 441 and 283, at the two places respectively.

POST AND TELEGRAPH.

A daily post-cart service, for the conveyance of mails and passengers between Bond's Drift on the Natal border and Eshowe, was opened on the 1st December, a contract being concluded for the term of three years on a subsidy from the Government at the rate of 650*l.* per annum. Whilst securing an improvement in postal communication, the establishment of this service greatly facilitates travelling on the main road to and from Natal.

Eshowe, Zululand,
March 21, 1895.

MARSHAL CLARKE,
Resident Commissioner.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 169.

ZULULAND.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1895.

(For Report for 1894, *see* No. 137 of this Series)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 1896.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
133	British Guiana	1893–4
134	Jamaica	,,
135	Newfoundland	1893
136	Gold Coast	,,
137	Zululand	1894
138	Bermuda	,,
139	Bahamas	,,
140	Barbados	,,
141	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
142	Malta	,,
143	Gambia	,,
144	Windward Islands	,,
145	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
146	Gibraltar	,,
147	Falkland Islands	,,
148	Hong Kong	,,
149	Straits Settlements	,,
150	Lagos	,,
151	Seychelles	,,
152	Basutoland	1894–5
153	Fiji	1894
154	St. Helena	,,
155	Ceylon	,,
156	Mauritius	,,
157	Labuan	,,
158	Gold Coast	,,
159	British Guiana	,,
160	Sierra Leone	,,
161	Jamaica	1894–95
162	British Honduras	1894
163	British Bechuanaland	1894–95
164	Newfoundland	1894
165	Gambia	,,
166	Bermuda	,,
167	Leeward Islands	1894
168	British New Guinea	1894–5

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.

No. 169.

ZULULAND.

[For Report for 1894 *see* No. 137.]

Sir W. F. HELY-HUTCHINSON to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Pietermaritzburg, Natal,
May 1, 1896.

SIR,

I FORWARD the Zululand Blue Book returns for 1895, and the Resident Commissioner's report thereon.

2. Owing to drought, locusts, and the fear of rinderpest, the outlook is far less encouraging at present than it has been for some years. I have approved of the Resident Commissioner's suggestion to stop all expenditure on public works which is not of an urgent character: and precautions have been taken to meet any scarcity which may arise. It will be observed that this matter has the Resident Commissioner's special attention.

I have, &c.

WALTER HELY-HUTCHINSON.

REPORT by the RESIDENT COMMISSIONER on the BLUE BOOK for 1895.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The actual cash balance to credit of the Treasury was, on the 1st January 1895, as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In treasury - - -	13,595	16	5
Invested and on deposit - -	24,657	0	0
Total -	38,252	16	5

On the 1st January 1896 it stood as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In treasury - - -	3,000	18	5
Invested and on deposit - -	21,657	0	0
Total -	24,657	18	5

ZULULAND. 1895.

The revenue for 1895 was 51,746*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*, an increase of 6,154*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* over the revenue received during 1894 and 4,459*l.* 18s. 8*d.* more than the estimate.

The chief increases were under "Hut Tax," the main source of revenue which increases year by year, owing to influx into Zululand of natives from surrounding territories, and under the heads "Gold Fields" and "Licenses."

The expenditure was exceptionally heavy in 1895, as compared with previous years. In 1895 it is shown to be 66,172*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, an increase over 1894 of 22,248*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* and an excess over the revenue for the year of 14,425*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* Of the amount of this excess, however, 11,326*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* was extraordinary and unforeseen expenditure, 4,908*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* alone having been paid in connexion with the expedition to Sambana's and Umbegeza's and the widow Umhlalini's territories and the annexation of the strip of country occupied by them, and 2,486*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* on the establishment of the magistracy there, in what is now the Ingwavuma district of Zululand.

1,435*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* was expended in the purchase of dynamite for issue on repayment to assist the mining operations.

782*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* on famine relief and 843*l.* extraordinary expenses connected with the Zulu prisoners at St. Helena.

7,691*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* was expended on extending the telegraphs and other public works, the charges in connection therewith being met out of accumulated surplus funds, investments by the Crown Agents being realized for this purpose.

The revenue exceeded the ordinary expenditure by more than 4,500*l.*

Owing to the charges above specified, the excess of assets over liabilities was reduced from 39,037*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.* on 1st January, to 24,612*l.* 7*s.* on the 31st December, 1895.

There is no public debt.

Public Works.

The expenditure in public works and surveys in 1895 was more than double that of 1894. The extension of the telegraph from Eshowe to Melmoth and from Dundee, Natal, to the Nondweni Gold Fields was undertaken, that portion of the latter line from Dundee to Vaut's Drift on the Zululand border being constructed at the expense of the Natal Government. The former line, about 22 miles in length, was completed and opened on the 13th August, and the latter, about 37 miles in length, on the 19th November.

The cost of construction was from 53*l.* to 55*l.* per mile.

Useful survey work was carried out for topographical purposes in several of the districts, including the new district of Ingwavuma.

The new buildings included (1) the magisterial offices of the Nqutu District, which have been erected in a more central

position of the district and 12 miles from the Nondweni Gold Fields, with which telephone communication is established; the old site of the Magistracy was at Rorkes Drift, on the Natal border; (2) offices, court room, &c., for the district of Ingwavuma, and (3) a school at Eshowe.

The new gaol at Eshowe, plans of which have been approved by the Secretary of State, was also commenced towards the end of the year.

New roads were made between Eshowe and the Lower Umfolozi Magistracy (New Site), and between Nondweni and Vaut's Drift on the Natal boundary.

Legislation.

Fifteen Proclamations were issued in 1895, including proclamations (1) annexing the territories bounded south and east by the Pongolo Rivers and north by Maputa or Usutu River, and west by Swazieland, to Her Majesty's Dominions, and (2) amending and better defining the boundaries of Zululand.

By Government Notice No. 16, 1895, dated 11th June, a British Protectorate was declared over the territory of Amatongaland (also called Amaputaland, and Tembeland), bounded on the north by the southern boundary of Portuguese territory; and his Excellency the Governor of Zululand was, by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet, appointed Special Commissioner over the Protectorate, except as regards matters affecting the adjacent Portuguese Possessions, and the South African Republic.

Establishment.

In consequence of the death of John Dunn, one of the 13 Chiefs appointed under General Wolseley's settlement of 1879 and who held the position of Chief over a large ward in the lower portion of Eshowe district, it became necessary in September last to appoint an assistant Resident Magistrate for that locality. The management of these people is entrusted to four of the late Chief's principal indunas or headmen, under the supervision of the Assistant Magistrate.

By proclamations Nos. IX. and XIII. the territories occupied by the Chiefs Sambana and Umbegesa and the widow Umhlaliri were declared to be annexed to Her Majesty's Dominions and to be incorporated with Zululand. In July a magistrate and staff was appointed for this district (Ingwavuma), which is estimated by survey to contain about 668 square miles. A police station has been established at Gwaliwene, about 12 miles from the seat of magistracy.

Population.

The European population is estimated at 819 males and 427 females, an increase in the former of 180 and in the latter of 72,

as compared with the previous year, due chiefly to the increase in the number of persons employed in mining and prospecting.

In the case of the native population the basis of calculation is the same as in 1894, viz:—the number of huts on which current taxes were paid, each hut being estimated to contain 3·3 souls (1·45 male and 1·9 female). The figures can only be taken as approximate. The total native population is shown as 197,865 as compared with 166,115 in 1894. The increase is to be mainly accounted for by the inclusion in Zululand of the territories of Sambana and Umbegesa. This new district is estimated to contain 23,538 natives. The huts in the district, however, have not been counted yet.

The figures are based on the assumption that the hut tax to be collected during the present year will amount to 5,000*l.*

Education.

Europeans.—There are only two schools for European children in Zululand. The one at Eshowe under the Bishop of Zululand (which is provided with a school house by the Government free of rent) and one at the Nondweni Gold Fields.

The proposal for a school at Melmoth, the seat of magistracy of Entonjaneni district fell through, the farmers in "Proviso B" being evidently apathetic on the subject of education.

An education committee for the district has, however, at length, been elected, the Magistrate being chairman, and it has been decided as a temporary measure to adopt the Natal system of grants in aid for farm schools, and when the necessary funds are available to build a central school for the district at Melmoth.

Native Schools.—The total average attendance at the Native mission schools was: boys, 263; girls, 414.

Grants in aid of native schools were made as follows to the various missionary bodies, viz.:—

	£
English Church of South Africa - -	200
Do. Industrial School (printing and book-binding), Eshowe - - - -	36
Norwegian Missionary Society - - -	50
Do. Industrial School, Eshowe (waggon making and carpentering) - - -	50
Swedish Mission Society - - - -	8
Norwegian Church established by Schreuder -	35

The schools were inspected during the year by the Resident Magistrates of the districts, who are the appointed inspectors, and were found, on the whole, to be satisfactory as mission schools.

A Roman Catholic mission station and school was established at the late Chief John Dunn's residence at Moyene.

Stock, Crops, &c.

With the exception of the low-lying parts of Umfolozi, Hlabisa, Ubombo, and Ingwavuma districts, where "horse-sickness" and

the disease known as "nagana" are deadly for horses and cattle, especially in the summer months, stock throve in Zululand in 1895.

Cases of lung sickness occurred in Nkandhla and Nqutu districts, but due precautions were taken and the disease was prevented from spreading.

Surgeon-Major Bruce, A.M.S., continued his investigations during the year of the "Tsetse Fly" and of the "Nagana" disease, and submitted a preliminary report on the subject in December last; his final report has not yet been received.

Though the acreage of land under cultivation by the natives was probably more in 1895 than in 1894, the yield was considerably less. The crops reaped by the natives in the early part of 1895 were much below the average in almost every district, owing to the very heavy rainfall and the damage caused by the locusts, swarms of which destructive insects traversed Zululand throughout the year. There was, in consequence, a scarcity of food amongst Natives towards the end of the year, when the price of grain rose considerably, mealies selling in some cases as high as 2*l.* per bag of 200 lbs.

I regret to say that a greater and more serious scarcity is anticipated during the present year (1896). The planting season of 1895–96 was exceptionally dry, and the natives were in many parts of the country unable to plant on account of the drought. Where good crops could be raised they were attacked, and often entirely demolished, by the locusts. This applies to all the districts excepting the Nqutu, the highlands of Nkandhla, and Ingwavuma districts, where fairly good yields are expected. As few of the traders are in a position to import grain in any quantity, the Government decided to distribute supplies to the districts in which the food was scarcest, and where the traders had taken insufficient or no measures to meet the demand, for issue to natives on payment of cost price. This action on the part of the Government has had the effect of keeping the price of grain within reasonable bounds, and of preventing exorbitant prices being generally realised.

The price of grain is still high, and likely to remain so, notwithstanding that large supplies of grain are being imported from America to meet the general short-fall in the crop in South Africa.

A special report was called for from the Magistrates with regard to the probable food supply, and, as far as can be judged, the natives for the most part have money and cattle to enable them to buy food until next season's crops can be reaped.

Numbers have left the territory to obtain work at the Gold Fields of the South African Republic, where very high wages are paid for labour in the mines and elsewhere. Supplies of mealies will continue to be forwarded where most urgently needed during the coming winter.

No cases of actual destitution or starvation have come under my notice, but it may possibly, later on, be found necessary to issue food free of charge in certain isolated cases.

ZULULAND. 1895.

Mines.

In order to more effectually carry out the Mining Law it was found advisable to appoint a Commissioner of Mines as provided for in that law. Mr. J. J. Garrard, A.M.I.C.E., who formerly held the appointment of Deputy Commissioner of Mines for Nondweni, was appointed to act as Commissioner of Mines, and in addition a Deputy Commissioner for Nondweni was appointed (who will also be in charge of the Government Assay Office about to be established, the want of which has been much felt). An Acting Deputy Commissioner of Mines for Nkandhla has also been found necessary.

An exhaustive report has been prepared by the Acting Commissioner of Mines on the mining industry for 1895. This industry, he now considers, stands on a much surer footing than heretofore. His report, dealing with the several gold and coal fields in detail, will be published for general information.

Renewed interest and activity was shown in gold mining in Zululand in 1895 and more development work took place than in 1894, as will be seen from the following figures furnished by the Acting Commissioner of Mines:—

	1894.	1895.
Prospecting licences in force on 31st December - - - - -	297	498
Prospecting areas registered 31st December -	252	465
Mining leases granted - - -	3	13
Europeans engaged in prospecting and mining - - - - - -	13	264
Natives engaged in prospecting and mining -	370	1,115
Mining revenue, all sources - - -	£867	£2,682

The most important companies formed for the development of properties were the "Zululand Exploration Company" and the "Exploration Company, Limited, of Zululand" (both Johannesburg companies). Three companies were floated:—

(1.) The "Durban Enterprise" Gold Mining Company, with capital of 125,000*l.* (working capital of 25,000*l.*).

(2.) The "New Sisters Gold Mining Company," capital 85,000*l.* (working capital 15,000*l.*).

(3.) The "Gold Fields of Zululand Company," 73,000*l.* (working capital 12,500*l.*).

These companies have been actively engaged in developing their properties during the year.

The gold won was insignificant in 1895, amounting only to 268 ozs., 520 ozs. less than the previous year's output; but, though this decrease is shown, the Acting Commissioner of Mines reports that considerable progress was made to provide for a future yield, as evinced by the increase in revenue from gold fields in spite of the decrease in receipts from royalty.

The Acting Commissioner of Mines accounts for the decrease by the facts (1) that the 10-stamp battery of the old "Enterprise" Syndicate at Nondwene, which turned out 413¾ oz. in 1894, was shut down as soon as the New Company took over the property—development pure and simple and the erection of a new 40-stamp battery being alone proceeded with for the remainder of the year 1895; and (2) that the work done at the "Harewood Mine" in Entonjaneni district, which produced 336 ozs. from its 5-stamp battery in 1894, was also almost entirely confined to developments.

The total amount of work hitherto done on gold fields in Zululand is estimated by the Acting Commissioner of Mines approximately as follows:—

Sinking - - -	10,000 feet
Driving - - -	16,500 „
Surface cutting - -	1,200,000 cubic feet

at a probable cost of 75,000*l.*, or, including cost of machinery, probably not less than 100,000*l.*

With regard to this the Acting Commissioner of Mines states, "It is perhaps needless to point out that the greater part of this "expenditure has been, to say the least, ill-advised. Probably "most of it has been borne by local syndicates, and many of these "might well ask themselves what they have to show on their "ground in the shape of equivalent in useful work done."

Coal.

The lease, applied for in 1893, over 4,000 acres near St. Lucia Bay, in Hlabisa district where anthracite coal exists, was issued, and the Government has under consideration the question of granting a concession to the lessees for the construction of a line of railway from the coal-fields to the Tugela on the Zululand-Natal border, to which point, also, the concessionaires have obtained permission from the Natal Government to extend the North Coast Railway from Verulam. A company for this purpose has been formed and work on the Natal extension is shortly expected to be commenced.

Two other mineral leases, over about 736 acres, have been granted near the Nondweni Fields, Nqutu district.

A diamond drill, purchased by the Government for hire to the public, for the purpose of testing areas, was continuously engaged during the year from the date it commenced work on the 26th August.

Several alterations and additions to the Mining Regulations were made, but none of any great importance, and I think the law, as now in force, may be said to have worked satisfactorily on the whole.

Land Grants.

The only land grants that have been made are those in "Proviso B." (Entonjaneni district) to Boer settlers whose farms were included in Zululand by the terms of the agreement of the 22nd October 1886.

No fresh grants were made in 1895.

A township, containing 85 acre lots (for residential sites), and 314 lots of one third of an acre each (for business sites), was surveyed at the Nondweni Gold Fields. A sale of lots will shortly take place. The conditions of sale are almost identical with those appertaining to the sale of lots in the Eshowe township.

Criminal Statistics.

The criminal returns show the number of offences reported to and dealt with by the Magistrates to have been 1,108 in 1895 compared with 921 in 1894. I am glad to be able to report that but little crime of a serious nature was committed and no abnormal increase in the cases requiring the Chief Magistrate's confirmation. There was a marked decrease in beer drinking, and consequently in the crimes which usually accompany it. Two sessions of the High Court were held, before which there were four convictions (all natives) for murder. The capital sentence passed by the court was carried out on three of the prisoners. The sentence of the fourth prisoner was commuted to imprisonment for life with hard labour, he being afterwards transferred to the Natal Government Lunatic Asylum.

General Remarks.

Native Agency.

By arrangement with the Natal Government, the officer appointed by it as Agent in the South African Republic to assist and advise the natives of Natal temporarily resident in the Transvaal and to make remittances on their behalf to their relations, &c., is employed as the Agent in like manner for the natives of Zululand in the Transvaal.

Locusts.

Endeavours were made to cope with this pest, which has been present in Zululand continuously since the latter part of 1894. European supervision of the work of destroying the young locusts was found to be absolutely necessary, and officers were specially engaged for this purpose in various districts, but the result did not justify a continuance of expenditure, which has accordingly been stopped. The swarms were so numerous that to deal with them with any measure of success would have necessitated the constant employment of a large staff of Europeans to direct the efforts of the natives and of the establishment of camps for the latter in uninhabited parts of Zululand, where locusts breed freely and fever is rife during the summer months.

In some parts of the country natives were found to work willingly and systematically, but in others preferred to attempt, generally without avail, to drive swarms off their own gardens and let the young insects be.

Preservation of Game.

Reserves were established in certain uninhabited parts of Entonjaneni, Hlabisa, Ndwandwe, Lower Umfolozi, and Ubombo Districts, where no game of any kind may be killed without special permission from the Governor. During the shooting (winter) season these reserves are placed in charge of Europeans.

Health.

The health of the people generally was good. No epidemic of small-pox or other disease broke out. Malarial fever was not nearly so prevalent and the mortality from that cause much less than in 1894.

It is satisfactory to be able to record, in conclusion, that quiet and good order continued to prevail throughout Zululand. The year cannot be said to have been a prosperous one for the natives; but they, both Chiefs and people, showed a ready disposition to carry out the orders of the Government, and abide by the laws. No difficulty was experienced in the collection of hut tax, which was willingly and punctually paid in every district.

I am, &c.

M. CLARKE,
Resident Commissioner.

Eshowe, Zululand,
28th April 1896.

No. 194.

ZULULAND.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 169.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1897.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
156	Mauritius	1894
157	Labuan	"
158	Gold Coast	"
159	British Guiana	1894–5
160	Sierra Leone	1894
161	Jamaica	1894–5
162	British Honduras	1894
163	British Bechuanaland	1894-5
164	Newfoundland	1894
165	Gambia	1895
166	Bermuda	"
167	Leeward Islands	1894
168	British New Guinea	1894–5
169	Zululand	1895
170	Sierra Leone	"
171	Gibraltar	"
172	Malta	"
173	Barbados	"
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
175	Falkland Islands	"
176	St. Helena	"
177	Bahamas	"
178	Hong Kong	"
179	Windward Islands	"
180	Labuan	"
181	Trinidad and Tobago	"
182	Seychelles	"
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	"
186	Basutoland	1895–6
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–6
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–6
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 194.

ZULULAND.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 169.)

Governor Sir W. F. HELY-HUTCHINSON to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Pietermaritzburg, Natal,
April 10, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Zululand Blue Book returns for 1896 together with a report by the Acting Resident Commissioner, C. R. Saunders, Esquire, C.M.G.

I have, &c.

WALTER HELY-HUTCHINSON.

REPORT by the ACTING RESIDENT COMMISSIONER on the ANNUAL BLUE BOOK of ZULULAND for the YEAR 1896.

Revenue.

The year 1896 was an exceptional one, both as regards revenue and expenditure, owing to a general scarcity of food, to a threatened spread of rinderpest, and to the destruction of crops by drought and locusts.

The actual cash balance on the 1st January 1896 was:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In the Treasury, &c. -	3,000	18	5
Invested and on deposit -	21,657	0	0
Total -	24,657	18	5

On the 1st January 1897 it was:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In the Treasury, &c. -	7,293	9	4
Invested and on deposit -	10,797	0	0
Total -	18,090	9	4

The total revenue for 1896 amounted to 66,982*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*, showing an increase of 15,235*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* over that of the previous year, and 7,011*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* in excess of the estimate.

The increase is mainly accounted for as follows:—

1. 9,197*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* by the sale of mealies which were purchased and issued, on repayment, by the Government for the relief of families in want of food;
2. About 9,000*l.* for the sale of dynamite to the mining community, and of ammunition to the rifle associations;
3. 2,000*l.* hut-tax, collected in the new district of Ingwavuma;
4. 1,200*l.* "sums refunded," including 965*l.* repaid by the Natal Government for the construction of the line of telegraph between Dundee and the Nondweni goldfields.

Expenditure.

The expenditure was 79,830*l.* 8*s.*, being an increase over 1895 of 13,657*l.* 12*s.*, an excess over the estimates to the extent of 18,038*l.* 9*s.*, 5*d.*, and considerably heavier than in any previous year. This is to be explained by the following extraordinary and unforeseen items of expenditure:—

1. 16,876*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* on the purchase of mealies to meet a general scarcity of food throughout the country. As these mealies are issued on payment, most of this expenditure will be recouped to Government. On the 31st December the amount recovered was, approximately, 9,197*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* in cash, and 3,120*l.* value of cattle received; total, 12,317*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*
2. Mines, 929*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, of which 660*l.* was spent on the construction of an office at Nondweni.
3. Magistracy, 2,419*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, owing to the establishment of two new magistracies, one of which, Umlalazi, was not estimated for.
4. Post and telegraph, 1,093*l.* 12*s.* A new telegraph station was opened at Nondweni at the end of 1895.

   The Eshowe-Tugela mail cart subsidy has been nearly doubled, owing to a considerable loss of horses and the increased price of corn.

   Postal services were also established to Ingwavuma, Amaputaland, and Umlalazi magistracy.
5. Zululand Police, 3,457*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, owing to an abnormal rise in the price of mealies, and the establishment of a Protectorate in Amaputaland, which cost 1,173*l.*
6. Scientific research, 718*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, due to the continued employment of Surgeon-Major Bruce for the investigation of "Nagana" or "Tsetse fly."
7. Dynamite, 971*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* This will be recovered as sold to the public.
8. Locusts, 1,110*l.* Expended on the work of destruction.
9. Rinderpest, 1,010*l.* Owing to the outbreak of this disease in the South African Republic, precautions were taken against the introduction of cattle into Zululand by the establishment of a cordon of police to guard the border, a duty which is now being performed almost entirely by the Zululand Police, and the expenditure considerably reduced.

Excluding the items under rinderpest, locusts, and famine relief, the ordinary expenditure exceeded the ordinary revenue by about 3,048*l.*

In consequence of the unusual charges above mentioned, the excess of assets over liabilities was reduced from 24,612*l.* 7*s.* to 11,781*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* on the 31st December 1896.

During the past three years the excess of assets over liabilities on the 1st January of each year stood respectively as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1894 - - - -	39,037	16	1
1895 - - - -	24,612	7	0
1896 - - - -	11,781	9	2

Public Works.

11,652*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.* was spent on public works in 1896 as compared with 19,751*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* in 1895. One or two important works, such as the new gaol at Eshowe, which were in the course of active construction at the commencement of the year were stopped, owing to the threatened famine and the danger of an inroad of rinderpest, and towards the end of April most of the public works were suspended, resulting in an unexpended balance of 5,851*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* in the amount of the year's estimate. A considerable saving in distance and gradients was effected in the new road between Nqutu and Nondweni. A deviation was carried out between Madhlozi and Nondweni to facilitate the transport of coal from Qudeni to the Nondweni gold fields. Bridle paths were made in the mountainous regions of Nkandhla district for the better connexion of the gold mining centres. The only new buildings erected consisted of wood and iron stores for the transport service from Tugela, Port Durnford, Ndwandwe and Ingwavuma.

No telegraph extension was effected. Wooden poles were cut in the Nkandhla forest for the Melmoth-Nongoma line, the survey of which was completed and the materials ordered from the Crown Agents.

The lowlands of the Ubombo and Hlabisa districts were surveyed for the map of Zululand which is in course of compilation.

Legislation.

Thirteen proclamations were issued in 1896, the objects of the more important of which were :—

1. To control recruiting in Zululand for the service of foreign countries.
2. To prevent and effectually deal with unlicensed squatting by Europeans on Crown lands.
3. To prohibit the introduction of cattle from the South African Republic or Swaziland, or from any part of the Portuguese Possessions north of Zululand, or of the Amatongaland Protectorate. This was with a view to preventing the spread of rinderpest.

ZULULAND. 1896.

The flight of Ngwanasi from the Portuguese portion of Amatongaland, or Amaputaland, into Zululand necessitated a closer supervision of that portion of the former country falling within the British sphere and over which a protectorate was declared in 1895. A special proclamation was issued by the Governor as Special Commissioner for Amatongaland, extending the laws of Zululand over the Protectorate, and providing for the administration thereof by the appointment of a Deputy Commissioner possessing the same powers as a magistrate in Zululand.

A joint Commission, consisting of one representative from each Government, was appointed to define the boundary between the British and Portuguese spheres in Amatongaland, which, under the Anglo-Portuguese Convention of 1891, takes a line following the parallel of the confluence of the Pongola and Maputa rivers to the sea coast.

Population.

The European population is estimated at 1,101, compared with 1,246 in the previous year; the decrease being due to the fact that a number of people have abandoned the gold fields in Nqutu and Nkandhla districts in consequence of the unsatisfactory results of mining enterprise.

The native population was calculated on the usual basis of $3\frac{1}{86}$ souls to each hut ($1\frac{1}{27}$ males and $1\frac{97}{108}$ females) on which tax was paid for the year.

The figures can only be regarded as approximately correct.

According to this estimate the population was 179,271, showing a decrease of 17,348 in comparison with the return of 1895. This decrease is to be explained principally by the fact that the population of the Ingwavuma district was over-estimated by 11,628 souls.

In the report on the Blue Book for that year, it was stated that this new district was estimated to contain 23,538 natives, that the huts had not been counted; and that the figures were based on the assumption that the hut tax to be collected would amount to 5,000*l.*

As a matter of fact only 2,520*l.* was received on account of hut tax. An error was also made in the computation of the returns, showing an excess of about 6,000 in the estimated population of the Eshowe district.

Establishment.

A Deputy Commissioner, with a staff consisting of a clerk, European constable, and two native messengers, was appointed in that part of Amatongaland which was proclaimed by the Governor to be a British Protectorate under Order in Council dated 29th June 1896, and published in the Government Gazette on the 11th day of August 1896.

A detachment of the Zululand police is stationed at the post occupied by the Deputy Commissioner.

Education.

There were three schools for European children—

(1.) At Eshowe, under direction of the Bishop of Zululand, a house being provided free of rent by the Government. Two m[illegible] pupils were added to the roll of last year. 68*l.* was granted in aid of this school as a capitation grant of 5*s.* each per month for children whose attendance was satisfactory;

(2.) Nondweni, under the management of a committee, a Government building being provided free of rent. The capitation grant paid to this school amounted to 26*l.*;

(3.) A farm house school, where four children are in attendance, received a capitation grant of 30*s.* for each child during the year.

The total expenditure in aid of education of European children was 222*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*

Seventeen native schools received grants as follows:—

			£
11	under the	English Church Mission -	- 210
3	do.	Norwegian Mission Society -	- 60
1	do.	Church of Norway Society -	- 25
1	do.	Swedish Church Mission -	- 10
1	do.	Roman Catholic Mission -	- 50

Including special grants for buildings, incidental expenses, industrial training-schools, &c. the total amount expended on native education was 676*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*

The general results attained in 1896 among the European and native schools have been satisfactory.

Agriculture.

Owing to a protracted drought, and the considerable damage to crops by locusts, extending over a period of eight months, a serious scarcity of food prevailed over nearly the whole of Zululand.

Sufficient grain for the wants of the people was not procurable from the local merchants. The Government therefore obtained large supplies of mealies for issue to native families on payment at cost price in the various districts. Up to the end of the year the returns showed that the total expenditure on the Famine Relief Account was 16,876*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*; that the receipts on sales amounted to 9,197*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*; that the value of cattle received in lieu of cash represented about 3,120*l.*; and that there was a balance of mealies on hand to the value of 3,037*l.* 16*s.* Of these the greater portion will probably be disposed of, but, owing to the damaged condition of a quantity of mealies, and to the reduction of the sellers' prices, according to current market value since the natives began to gather fresh corn from the season's crops, a loss is anticipated. Towards the end of the year very favourable weather set in, and the locusts almost entirely disappeared from

ZULULAND. 1896.

all parts of the country. The crops cultivated this season consequently show every prospect of a fine harvest.

Mines.

The gold mining industry, which appeared to offer a favourable outlook at its commencement, fell into a state of decline at the end of the year, owing to the failure of the Durban Enterprise and New Sisters' Companies at the Nondweni fields, the abandonment of ground on the upper Insuzi fields by Johannesburg syndicates, and to a general depression in the market which affected all the mining centres of South Africa. At Nondweni, the Durban Enterprise Company started crushing early in the year, but the results obtained were not sufficiently encouraging to continue the work. The working of the New Sisters' mine was attended with much the same results. Little work of any consequence was done on any of the various other properties at Nondweni, the majority of those interested in them having apparently waited for the results of the crushings of the two companies which failed, as above stated.

On the Banket formation at the Upper Insuzi fields no reef has yet been found sufficiently rich to work, and most of the areas have consequently been abandoned. In only one instance has ground of similar formation near the Umhlatuzi river been held with the intention of thoroughly proving it to be payable or otherwise.

In the neighbourhood of Melmoth the Watkins mine, under capable supervision, has shown that, so far as can be judged at present, it possesses a reef which promises to prove payable. The Acting Commissioner of Mines reports that a schist belt, extending from the Umhlatuzi valley through Nkandhla district to Umsinga in Natal, which has hitherto rarely been exploited, appears to be deserving of attention. The gold occurs here, as a rule, in rich shoots in narrow quartz leaders enclosed in schist, which are capable of being mined and milled at an exceptionally low cost.

The revenue and expenditure of the Mines Department for the past three years is shown in the following table :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894 - -	867 2 9	284 0 10
1895 - -	2,682 18 9	833 0 10
1896 - -	3,355 11 7	1,762 11 0
Total - -	6,905 13 1	2,879 12 8

The above figures do not include the cost of buildings. The Acting Commissioner of Mines is of opinion that there are many districts which merit careful exploration; that the territory cannot yet be said to have been prospected; that the gold mining prospects are not so discouraging as the present depression in the industry would lead one to suppose; that as soon as the country

is diligently explored its mineral wealth will be made apparent; and that hitherto Zululand has been suffering principally from want of capital and the expenditure of such capital to the best advantage. Apart from the gold and coal, the only minerals brought to notice during the year were mica, asbestos, opal, lime, and copper.

Coal.

A vast supply of fair quality coal is stated to exist over an extensive area of country in the immediate vicinity of the sea-coast. Prospecting was actively carried on towards the end of the year. The most important discoveries which have yet been made are at the St. Lucia and Ntambanana fields. Being situated at a low level close to the sea, with several miles of natural waterways, and being the only locality on the east coast of Africa in which coal is actually known to exist in British territory, these coal measures appear to command exceptional advantages and importance.

The information so far received appears sufficient to justify attention being directed to the mouth of the Umhlatuzi river which would seem to be the natural outlet for these fields in the event of their success. Should this be the case, and it were proved that a coaling station could be established, it might be of incalculable value to the Imperial Government.

Crime.

The criminal statistics show a general decrease in the amount of crime. This may partly be attributed to a complete failure of the mabele crop, from which the native beer is manufactured, and probably in a certain measure to the absence of a large proportion of the young men at work at the Johannesburg gold mines.

The number of offences reported to and dealt with by the magistrates were 1,108 in 1895, and 916 in 1896.

GENERAL.

Stock.

I regret to say that "Nagana" increased very considerably during the year, particularly in the districts of Entonjaneni, Hlabisa, and Ubombo, and the mortality amongst cattle was consequently unusually severe. Owing to the heavy losses sustained by the natives from this disease, which there is now very little doubt is due to the presence of large game, special authority was granted by Government for the organisation of hunting parties to destroy or drive away the large game from private and inhabited Crown lands into the reserves. Under these circumstances, and in view of the fact that the Ubombo and Ingwavuma magistracies, as well as the Amputaland Protectorate, have been practically cut off from all communication by road from the rest of Zululand by the spread of Nagana, measures

are now under consideration with the object of abolishing the reserve in the Ubombo district and of throwing open two of the other reserves in the vicinity of regular trade routes for hunting under certain restrictions.

Lung sickness, of which there are occasional outbreaks every year, was exceptionally rife amongst the cattle in many parts of the territory, and in many instances was introduced by transport riders bringing in grain from Natal. Instructions have consequently been issued to the magistrates for a stringent enforcement of the law relating to this disease, which requires the destruction of the infected animals and the isolation of cattle in affected localities.

Rinderpest.

Owing to the prevalence of rinderpest in the South African Republic, and the danger of it spreading into Zululand, detachments of the Zululand police and special constables under European supervision were stationed along the border to prevent the introduction of stock, &c., and to carry out the provisions of the proclamations issued for the purpose of checking the spread of this disease. As a precautionary measure, the adjoining colony of Natal closed its borders and erected a wire fence along the course of the Tugela and Buffalo rivers, which form the Zululand boundary with that Colony.

At the time this action was taken this Government had large supplies of mealies in Natal purchased for distribution in the districts where an actual want of food existed. Arrangements were therefore made for the shipment of these and other supplies from Durban to Port Durnford on the Zululand coast, at which place two cargoes were successfully landed and stored in sheds specially constructed for the purpose. In view of the expense of obtaining goods by sea in this manner, road transport was reverted to.

Goods sheds were built at Bonds Drift, on the Natal border, on the main road to Eshowe and Coast districts. As no oxen or stock of any kind are allowed to cross the border into Natal, goods to and from Zululand are transferred by punt across the Tugela, where fresh waggon transport is in readiness to take them forward.

The closing of the border has had the effect of cutting off our market for the sale of cattle, a fact which will probably put the Zululand Government to some loss.

Locusts.

Very considerable damage was done to crops by the immense swarms of locusts which settled throughout Zululand in the early part of the year.

In some districts the crops were completely devastated. Fortunately, however, the locusts almost entirely disappeared from the country towards the end of August, and the crops planted the second time have escaped their ravages.

Labour.

The facilities for obtaining employment on the gold fields in the South African Republic attracted a large number of labourers from Zululand, and, as the ruling wages there are high, enabled them to earn sufficient money to tide over the famine by which the territory was threatened. The natives at the fields continue to take advantage of the labour agency in Johannesburg for remitting their wages to Zululand.

Political Rumours.

Alarming rumours of a rising of natives during the months of November and December resulted in a mustering of Boers into laager in the Vrijheid district of the South African Republic, and in the departure of a number of Boers and their families from their homesteads on the border. These disquieting rumours found a limited circulation, and all suspicions were allayed soon after they had been aroused.

In conclusion, it is to be observed that the year was a singularly unfortunate one, owing to a severe drought, a threatened incursion of rinderpest, and the destruction of crops by locusts. Notwithstanding these conditions, good order prevailed throughout the territory; the people continued to show a ready obedience to law; and the collection of hut tax was effected without difficulty in any of the districts.

Eshowe, Zululand,
1st April, 1897.

C. R. SAUNDERS,
Acting Resident Commissioner,
Zululand.